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THE SITUATION.

The town of Lynchburg, Virginia, which from the commencement of the war the rebels had been able to maintain possession of, and which only a week ago was considered of sufficient strength to withstand for some time, if Lee could get his army within its works, a siege of the entire Army of the Potomac, surrendered on Tuesday to a lieutenant in command of a Union scouting party, and is now garrisoned by a brigade of national troops.

Corroboration of the report published in Tuesday's Herald that Selma, Alabama, had been captured by General Wilson's national cavalry force is contained in a despatch from Major General Thomas. In addition it is stated that the rebel chiefs, Forrest and Roddy, and their entire commands, were made prisoners, and that Montgomery, Alabama, has also been taken by General Wilson. General Thomas says that, although he has received no confirmation direct from General Wilson, he is inclined to believe these reports. The capture of Selma is said to have taken place on the 24 inst. We give this morning sketches of the towns of Selma and Montgomery and of the reported captured rebel General Forrest and Roddy.

Advices from Mobile say that the national forces have succeeded in establishing a battery above Spanish Fort, thereby entirely cutting off communication between that rebel work and the city of Mobile. The siege was progressing favorably.

The President has issued a proclamation modifying the previous one of the 11th inst., closing Southern ports, by excepting those named the port of Key West, Florida, which is declared open to foreign and domestic commerce.

Our Newbern despatches of the 8th inst. state that the entire re-equipping of General Sherman's army had been completed, and that it was ready to enter upon a new campaign for the sudden extirpation of General Johnston's military power if that rebel chieftain shall choose to offer any further resistance after hearing of Lee's surrender. The news of the capture of Richmond of course caused great rejoicing in Newbern. The country on the south side of the Neuse river between Newbern and Goldsboro is entirely cleared of armed rebels; but on the north side of that stream there are some prowling bands. One of these on the 7th inst. captured and burned a steamer and two barges, laden with supplies for Sherman's troops, on their way up the river. This is the only interruption which General Sherman's communications have suffered. General Mower has succeeded General Williams as commander of the Twentieth corps, in Sherman's army.

A small force of national cavalry left Norfolk on the 1st inst., and reconnoitered the country southward to within a short distance of Weldon, N. C.; two up the trunk of the Roanoke and Seaboard Railroad for a considerable distance; defeated, after a severe fight, a party of six hundred cavalry by whom they were attacked; captured several prisoners and a considerable amount of cotton and tobacco; gained much valuable information, and returned safely to their starting point last Saturday night.

The people of Virginia, and of the city of Richmond in particular, appear to be at last fully satisfied with their experiment of a Southern confederacy, and are making preparations for the return of their State to its former loyal position in the Union. We have already recorded conferences of leading Virginians with President Lincoln, General Welles and General Shepley, and the additional highly interesting despatches of our Richmond correspondents, which we publish this morning, show that certain influential citizens there are still engaged in endeavoring to secure the best terms they can. The feeling of the majority of the Richmondites against Jeff. Davis and other leaders of the rebel government is represented as having become very bitter.

At least five thousand of the white people of Richmond are now entirely dependent on the government and Northern charities for their daily supply of food, and but for these would starve. The government officials are now losing twelve thousand rations a day to these destitute dupes of secession. The work of clearing up the city and taking possession of mills, manufacturing and rebel government and abandoned property of all kinds, and putting them in proper order, is being vigorously prosecuted, and the direction of General Shepley, and in the necessary labor which this involves, a large number of negroes are employed. The amount of property thus secured to the government is enormous. Much secreted property has been discovered in the dwellings of citizens, including, it is said, vast quantities of articles sent from friends in the North to administer to the wants of imprisoned Union soldiers. The remains of Colonel Dahlgren have been discovered near Richmond, exhumed and sent to Washington.

It was rumored in Richmond that General Lee arrived in the city on Monday night, and proceeded quietly to his residence.

It is said that the attempt on the part of the rebels to carry out the law of their Congress requiring the negro to fight for the enslavement of his race has caused a widespread and general stampede in the southern part of Mississippi, especially in Pike, Amite and Wilkinson counties. One planter recently lost one hundred head of his "peculiar" property, and many others have lost from ten to fifty, and in numerous cases the runaway have carried off carriages, horses, mules, harness and household effects belonging to their masters. And still the exodus continues.

We have received a copy of the official correspondence between Lord Lyons, Secretary Seward, Mr. Adams and Earl Russell, upon the subjects of the surrender of the private Seaboard and his confederates, who escaped upon the sinking of the Alabama; upon British neutrality in Canada and in England, and the grievances complained of by Minister Adams and Secretary Seward in the fitting out and equipment of other ships-of-war in British ports to prey upon and destroy our commerce. The matter is by no means new, and the points treated upon have already been sufficiently elaborated in the columns of the Herald; but the abstract is an interesting one.

The blockade runner Flamingo arrived at Havana on the 6th inst., six days from Galveston, with nearly one thousand bales of cotton. The blockade runner Little Blaine had put to sea, but soon after returned with a hole through her smokestack, supposed to have been punched by a ball from one of the guns of the United States gunboat Cherokee.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

The steamship New York, from Southampton on the 26th of March, arrived at this port yesterday, and the steamship Moravian, from Greenock on the 21st, reached Portland last evening. The news is five days later.

The rebel iron-clad ram Stonewall, Captain Page,

arrived in the port of Lisbon, from Ferrol, Spain, on the 27th of March. Captain Page reported that he was ready to fight the Niagara and Sacramento, of Ferrol, but that they avoided a battle. The Portuguese manned their forts, and ordered the Stonewall to leave. On the 28th ult. the Niagara and Sacramento went into the harbor, and the Stonewall left for sea. The Union vessels were directed to remain twenty-four hours after their departure. A movement on their part being observed which was supposed to indicate an intention to go out before the expiration of the time, they were fired on from a fort, the Niagara struck, and a sailor killed. Both ships then anchored. The commanders of the Niagara and Sacramento say that they were merely shelling their anchors when fired upon, and had no intention of sailing. It was rumored that diplomatic notes in regard to the affair had been exchanged. Gibraltar was thought to be the destination of the Stonewall.

The question of the defenses of Canada was still discussed in the English Parliament, and another important debate on the subject was expected.

General McClellan was entertained at a banquet by the Russian Ambassador in Rome. The maintenance of friendly relations between Russia and America was toasted.

United States stocks were the only foreign securities in demand in Frankfurt.

United States five-twenty bonds advanced three per cent in London. Consols closed at 89 1/2, a 89 1/2 for money on the 31st ult. Breadstuffs were quiet and firm in Liverpool. Provisions were dull. The Liverpool cotton market closed on the 31st of March with a decline for the week of one penny and a half on American descriptions and a half-penny to one penny on other kinds.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Senate yesterday advanced to a third reading bills to incorporate the New York and Brooklyn Districting Company; to incorporate the New York and Bayview Ferry Company, and relative to the proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of Pilots. Bills were passed authorizing the consolidation of the railroads in Brooklyn; for a survey of the Hudson river from Waterford to Fort Edward, and relative to savings banks in this city. The consideration of the "Central Railroad two and a half cents per mile way fare bill" was resumed. After debate progress was reported, and, on motion, the bill was made the special order for debate on Friday morning.

An executive session was held yesterday to take into consideration the confirmation of the appointment of Fire Commissioners, recently made by Governor Fenton, under the requirements of the Paid Fire Department bill. It is understood that charges are to be preferred against one of the nominees. The whole subject has been laid over until to-morrow, when another session will be held.

In the Assembly bills were reported to incorporate the North American and Italian Steamship Company; to authorize the Second Avenue Railroad Company to construct new tracks; to improve Seventh street, Brooklyn, and to enable the Supervisors of Brooklyn to raise money by tax to provide for the payment of certain extraordinary expenditures of that city. A motion was made and adopted to suspend the rules so as to put forward the Metropolitan Health bill. The bill was then considered in Committee of the Whole, progress being reported. The Quarantine bill was made the special order for Wednesday next.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Mayor Gunther has issued a proclamation recommending the observance of Thursday, the 20th inst., the day appointed by the Governor, as a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing.

One hundred and thirty-four recruits for the army were enlisted in this city on Tuesday, to pay the bounties to whom required fifty-one thousand seven hundred dollars. A considerable number of men were enlisted yesterday; but there are apprehensions entertained of an early falling off in the volunteering business, as the funds in Mr. Russell's hands are now reduced to a comparatively small sum, and the capitalists do not take up the State and county bounty bonds with that promptness which was expected.

A meeting of citizens of the Fifteenth ward was held last night at Hope Chapel for the purpose of concerting measures to fill their quota with volunteers and to provide substitutes for men already drafted. Circulars soliciting subscriptions for this purpose have been sent to all the wealthy residents of the ward.

Judge Cardoso, of the Court of Common Pleas, was engaged yesterday in trying the case of William R. Wilson versus the Mayor. It appears that in the month of August, 1864, a son of the plaintiff, about sixteen years of age, fell through a hole in the pier at the foot of Fifth street, East river, and was drowned. Mr. Wilson claims that the Corporation was guilty of negligence in leaving the pier so exposed, and, attributing the loss of his son to such negligence, he sues the city for damages. The jury were directed to bring in a sealed verdict at eleven o'clock this morning.

In the Supreme Court yesterday the will of Mrs. Lucy P. Howell was still on trial. With being concluded, an adjournment was taken to Monday next.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Warren Smith, indicted for stealing fifty dollars worth of wearing apparel from John R. Mortimer, pleaded guilty to an attempt at perjury, and was sent to the Penitentiary for six months. Patrick Hogan, charged with passing a two-dollar counterfeit bill on the Commercial Bank of Saratoga Springs upon William H. Barnes, in Sixth avenue, pleaded guilty to forgery in the fourth degree. He was sent to the State Prison for two years. Alice Allen, who was charged by Joseph Wheatley with stealing one hundred and twenty dollars from him at a saloon in the Poverty, pleaded guilty to an attempt at grand larceny. The Court sent her to the Penitentiary for one year. Catherine Schultz, a well known shop-lifter, who was convicted in February, was sentenced to the State Prison for three years. One Clark was tried and acquitted on an indictment charging him with stealing a horse and wagon worth three hundred and fifty dollars, the property of Andrew J. Hendon. Wm. Jones, alias "Jack Sheppard," pleaded guilty to grand larceny, in stealing, on the 10th of February, three cases of dry goods, worth thirteen hundred dollars, the property of John G. Gilmore, of Broadway. The Recorder sentenced Jones to the State Prison for four years and six months. As he was being removed from the bar he said he would never go there, and resisted the officers, who finally secured him. He is a notorious character, having served a number of terms in the State Prison and Penitentiary, whence he escaped four or five times. Since he has been in the Tombs he has attempted to commit suicide.

Rev. Daniel S. Dickinson has been appointed to super-
vise the District of Columbia, as United States District Attorney in this city.

The festive celebration which was to mark the recurrence of Henry Clay's birthday have been pushed on one side by the startling events of modern times. This year the customary dinner was announced to take place at the Madison Hotel yesterday. At the hour appointed there were two gentlemen standing on the steps of the hotel. The programme they proposed was a quiet little supper to themselves. They were the last remaining representatives of those once great whig removers.

Ellen Doolley, alleged to be an old offender, was yesterday committed to prison, in default of three thousand dollars bail, on the charge of having been caught coming out of the house No. 199 East Forty-third street with two hundred dollars worth of clothing which she had stolen therefrom.

The charter election took place in Jersey City on Tuesday. The Democratic ticket was successful, with the exception of Chief of Police, one Alderman and two Chosen Freeholders.

A locomotive of the New York Central Railroad exploded its boiler while standing in the engine house at Canastota on last Monday afternoon, causing the death of the fireman and severely injuring the engineer.

An engine tender and three cars on the Charleston and Memphis Railroad were precipitated into a stream by a bridge giving way, on the 6th inst., and two persons were killed and several severely injured.

The stock market was active and higher yesterday morning, but it declined late in the afternoon; developments were steady. Gold was quiet, and closed at 145 1/2 down town. At the evening board the closing price was 146 1/2.

The merchandise markets were steady yesterday, and prices are fast settling down to the basis of gold at \$1 45 1/2, it is now being pretty evident that there will be no gold panic or commercial panic, but that the decline of gold and the return to specie payments will be gradual, as, according to Secretary McCulloch's views, on "Change four declined to a 10c, with a moderate demand. The wheat market opened steady, but closed dull, with a downward tendency. Corn was firm, particularly new, which is scarce. Oats were steady at previous rates. Pork was quite active, and 20c. a 50c. per barrel higher. Beef was steady, while lard was in active request at previous rates. Freight was dull and scarcely so firm. Whiskey was 10c. a 10c. lower.

Important from Europe—Escape of the Rebel Ram Stonewall—The President's Proclamations.

The important news which we publish this morning of the movements of the rebel iron-clad Stonewall, and the pursuing United States wooden steamers Niagara and Sacramento, and especially the escape of the rebel free-boater from the port of Lisbon, and the firing into the Niagara by the Portuguese forts, bring forward into bold relief the recent proclamations of President Lincoln in reference to the "belligerent rights" of Jeff. Davis and the maritime rights of this country in the ports of friendly nations.

The rebel cruiser, slipping out of the port of Ferrol, in Spain, was pursued by the Niagara and Sacramento into the port of Lisbon. The rebel was ordered by the Portuguese authorities to leave immediately, and left accordingly, whereupon our pursuing ships, under the neutrality regulations and "belligerent rights" first emanating from England in regard to our civil war, were required to hold on for twenty-four hours. As this was equivalent to a free passage of the rebel to her contemplated piratical depredations on the high seas, the disgusted officers of our ships, it appears, resolved to run the gauntlet of the Portuguese forts, when a shot from one of them striking the Niagara, and killing a seaman, brought both vessels to anchor. Thus, from the rules of neutrality and the law of "belligerent rights" as first adopted by England, this latest and most formidable of all the rebel buccaners, the Stonewall, has escaped to her mission of plundering and burning our merchant vessels, and we have become involved in difficulty with Portugal, one of the weakest Powers of Europe.

These proclamations of President Lincoln touching the belligerent rights of Jeff. Davis, and our own maritime rights in the ports of friendly Powers, come, therefore, none too soon, though probably as soon as they would command the immediate respect of the Western Powers of Europe. We now understand, too, why a proclamation declaring the ports of the rebel States closed at the beginning of the war was not issued, instead of the declaration of a blockade, which technically involves the recognition of a belligerent. The former alternative was not adopted because the government had good reasons to fear that, while England and France would respect an effective blockade (which they did not believe could be established), a claim to exercise legal authority over our Southern seaports, as over other ports of the Union, would not be respected by them.

Thus, between giving Earl Russell his conventional quibble for "belligerent rights," and the alternative of a war with England and France, as allies of Davis, the administration was constrained to declare the blockade. Now this proclamation closing the Southern ports brings Earl Russell squarely to the test of recognizing Jeff. Davis and his armed confederates, on the land and water, as lawless insurgents and freebooters, or to the issue of a rupture with the United States. We presume, however, that the legal authority of the federal government over the ports of the South will now be fully conceded.

The proclamation on our maritime rights leaves no loophole of escape. It declares substantially that these offensive and unjust neutrality regulations of foreign Powers in reference to our civil war will no longer be tolerated—that our vessels-of-war in the ports of England, for example, must at once be allowed the same privileges which we allow her Majesty's ships in our ports, and to which we are entitled by treaty, public law or the comity of nations; and that hereafter that nation will be denied these rights which denies them to us. Where no reciprocity is accorded there will be retaliation.

Within twenty days from this date, we predict, the international obligations conveyed in these proclamations will become the law to the Western Powers of Europe. Then there will be an end to the "belligerent rights" of Jeff. Davis and his buccaners. England and France, as well as Portugal and other Powers, will understand that there is to be no more trifling in this business. The arms of our country are now free, and its voice of warning will be heard and respected. The day of our humiliation is past and the hour of justice has come.

Reconstruction—The Status of the Southern States—The Trailers.

The speech made by the President on the occasion of a celebration in Washington of the great victories is an excellent one. Though characterized in some quarters as "reserved," it is the most outspoken utterance of an open man. It accords in a proper and generous spirit the full and whole meed of praise for our victories to those justly entitled to it—General Grant, his skillful officers and brave men—and it takes hold of the important question of reconstruction with characteristic freedom and open, unaffected honesty, as a question to be fairly met and fully weighed by the people. Practical common sense is the political philosophy of this nation, and Mr. Lincoln, the exponent of that philosophy, stands out here as one disposed to be the President of the American people, and not of a party, and to uphold in relation to the Southern States the only platform that a great and enlightened people can ever be satisfied to stand upon.

At the commencement of this war two widely different views were taken of the states in it of the Southern States. One was the view of the people of this country; the other the view of our enemies. Our enemies maintained that the Southern States had gone out of the Union. We maintained that they had not gone out, and could not go out; that they were all the time

integral parts of the nation, but that certain portions of their population were in insurrection against the laws. The war, in this view, was simply the employment of the national power to enforce order within our own limits. Except upon this view of the case the war could not have been carried on. The people laid down their lives and lavishly contributed their wealth for the Union, not to subjugate neighboring States. Except upon this theory our war would be the unholy and unjust one that Southern men have always declared it to be; and this theory the people must and will carry out to the end if they are disposed to listen to those who teach them justice and truth, rather than to those who speak from the dictates of fanatical hatred and revenge. Upon the whole theory of our people throughout the war the old States are now actually in the Union, and the real residents of those States are entitled to their constitutional rights, subject to the modifications—as in relation to slavery—that the national legislature has made. Necessarily they are smaller States than they were in respect to population; and they may, like Louisiana, run down to twelve thousand men. But certainly that does not invalidate their status as States. If pestilence, famine or any other scourge should reduce the population of Rhode Island to only enough men to carry on her government, she would not cease on that account to be a sovereign State. We must take the population as it is—take the egg as we find it, and have the fowl when it comes. Our only proper policy is to leave the States alone to the utmost possible extent.

Mr. Lincoln carried on the war in obedience to his oath of office to sustain the laws. His business is with the violators of the law personally. There is no power anywhere to obliterate State lines. We denied the power of any single State to destroy the Union by secession; we must also deny the power of the body of States to destroy the Union by the obliteration of any one State. If we should adopt the radical view, that the Southern States are so far foreign States that they now stand to us in the light of conquered territory, then we justify the acts of the people of those States, and there is no one to punish for if they are not subjects they cannot be traitors. But if the States are and always have been parts of this nation, then there are many of their citizens now guilty of treason. What shall be done with these? Against these the radicals would pursue the bitter policy followed by governments from time immemorial, and mete out slaughter and confiscation to the utmost limit. We do not believe that the dignity and power of our government require to be asserted in that way; nor does it seem that the numberless executions for treason that are chronicled in the history of all governments but our own ever prevented the attempts of traitors. We believe that every single man may safely be left to his own bitter disappointments and miseries as his severest punishment; and we are certain that by pursuing such a course our government would set a magnanimous and worthy example to the governments of the future.

The Ice Swindle.—The ice dealers have combined to raise the price of ice the present season to twenty dollars the ton for families and ten dollars for the butchers and market men. This is about double what was paid the last year, although last winter's crop was really tremendous, and the stock secured is larger than at any former period in the history of ice. When gold has fallen from two hundred and eighty-five to one hundred and forty-six we see no reason why frozen water should rise one hundred per cent on former high prices. The public must unite to refuse ice for the next month or two to put down this swindle. Let the ice melt on their hands. We call upon the dealers of Boston and Portland to step in with a supply and teach our monopolists with icy hearts a wholesome and much wanted lesson.

Fine Arts.

"L'Almeé," Gorme's picture, now on exhibition at Goupil's, has excited in art circles a degree of interest which we do not often see aroused in connection with pictures. It is certainly a most extraordinary effort of characterization, careful drawing and rich and harmonious coloring. There are few living artists who are capable of surmounting the difficulties of such a subject. Out of materials in themselves repellant Mr. Gorme has contrived to produce one of the most fascinating of modern pictures. The animal and sensual expression of the face of the male spectators of the scene is lost in admiration of the wonderful skill with which they are painted. The dancing girl herself is a marvel of artistic study and elaboration. There is not an inflexion in that lithe and voluptuous figure which has not cost days, nay, perhaps weeks, of anxious and powerful consideration. And the truthfulness in the flesh tones; what grace in the arrangement of the drapery! Such a figure would make one of the finest beauties of the most difficult subjects possible for the statuary. It is to be hoped the picture will not be allowed to leave the country in view of its value for art purposes. It affords evidence of how much can be accomplished by the adaptation of fertile resources to any subject, no matter how distasteful in itself or opposed to the conventional notions of people.

A picture has recently been presented by Augero, the Italian artist, for a church in Boston, which is attracting a great deal of attention. It is St. Andrew bearing the cross—a favorite subject with the old masters. Mr. Augero has departed from the traditional types that have descended to him, and has treated the picture in a manner entirely his own. The head of the Saint is finely handled, and, without being too much spiritualized, has sufficient of the ideal to give it value both as a church picture and a work of art. In general arrangement and color the work is especially to be admired. The artist's studies have been made in a school in which the details of a picture of this kind are as closely scrutinized as the general plan. Thus in the management of his draperies we find the natural forms invariably adhered to even when a departure from them might save trouble—a conscientiousness that rarely observable in modern works of this kind. In color, too, he is not to be excelled. The richness, the fullness and the truthfulness of his tones are only to be equalled by the admirable harmony which pervades them. Mr. Augero has been entrusted with a number of important commissions in the way of ecclesiastical decoration. There is no artist in the country who is so thoroughly experienced in this style of work, or who has given such general satisfaction by his manner of executing it. A great many of our New York churches have been decorated by him, and he is now being extensively employed by the Boston congregations, who are great admirers of his frescoes.

The New Academy of Design will be inaugurated on the 17th with the finest exhibition of native works that has yet been assembled in this country. The artists have made extra exertions on this occasion, by painting pictures of more than usual importance. There is not a painter or sculptor in the country that will not be represented, an unusual circumstance, as of late years a good deal of dissatisfaction has been created by the partiality shown in hanging the pictures. We trust that on so interesting an occasion no opportunity will be afforded for any well-founded complaint of this sort. It would detract much from the feelings of satisfaction and pride which the event is calculated to evoke.

THE AMERICAN UNION CONVENTION.—The amount collected for the benefit of the American Union Convention at the Broadway Tabernacle church, last Sunday evening, was sixteen hundred and twenty-five dollars and forty-eight cents, of which \$1,000 was for the benefit of the colored people, and \$625 for the benefit of the white people.

THE SALE OF THE SAVANNAH COTTON.—It is gratifying to know that cotton fabrics are coming down to a reasonable price again. Our wives and daughters can very soon supply themselves with bedding, table cloths, dresses, &c., at something like old fashioned rates. It has been ruinous for housekeepers to get out at elbows for the last three or four years, and to clothe a family as large as that of John Rogers required the purse of Fortunatus himself. Our great staple, which has been run up by the war to nearly two dollars per pound, has now subsided to peace prices. The private sale transactions, as shown in our commercial columns yesterday, are as follows:

	Upland.	Florida.	Mobile.	N.O.	St.
Ordinary.....	22	22	23	23	23
Good middling.....	23	23	24	24	24
Good middling.....	23	23	24	24	24

The government sales of three thousand bales by the Messrs. Blocker, at auction, on the same day, were as follows:

	Gold.	Currency.
Ordinary to good ordinary.....	14 1/2	22
Good ordinary to low middling.....	14 1/2	22
Barely middling to good middling.....	14 1/2	22
Good middling.....	14 1/2	22

These rates are above their late sale prices, especially as the cotton is all Georgian and above one-half of the bales covered with double bagging and extra ropes. We advise Mr. McCulloch to dispose of his whole stock if he can do so at anything like these rates, before John Bull collapses over the capture of Lee and the end of the rebellion.

MEETING OF TOBACCO MERCHANTS.—An adjourned meeting of tobacco merchants was held at No. 12 Pine street yesterday afternoon, at which a memorial to the Secretary of the Treasury, setting forth the views and wishes of the assembly, was adopted and transmitted to Washington. The great complaint made by the merchants is directed against the sale in the North, for the United States government, of manufactured tobacco confiscated in the rebel States, which, being disposed of free of tax, is believed to be ruinous to the business of local citizens engaged in the manufacture of the article.

MAILS FOR THE PACIFIC.

The mail steamship Costa Rica, Captain Threlknap, will leave this port to-day, at noon, for Aspinwall. The mails for Central America and the South Pacific will close at half-past ten o'clock this morning. The New York and Aspinwall for the Pacific will be published at half-past nine o'clock this morning. Single copies, in wrappers, ready for mailing, six cents.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, April 12, 1865.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT. The President has issued another supplementary proclamation, as follows:—

Whereas, by my proclamation of this date the port of Key West in the State of Florida was declared to be included among those which are not open to commerce. Now, therefore, be it known that I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known that the said port of Key West is and shall remain open to foreign and domestic commerce upon the same conditions by which that commerce has heretofore been governed.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed, Done at the city of Washington, this eleventh day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-ninth.

By the President:
WILLIAM M. SWANSON, Secretary of State.

THE BLOCKADE. The ports recently closed by the proclamation of the President will continue to be blockaded.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. The speech of the President last night has been very generally canvassed to-day, and meets with approbation from a large majority of the people. There is, however, a very active minority of the more radical of the republicans who are much chagrined at the indications of a disposition to heal up existing difficulties on the basis of the abolition of slavery and submission to the constitution and the laws. Although comparatively few in number, they are very active, and include prominent and influential members of the dominant party, and will try to make difficulty and complicate matters as much as possible. The President relies upon the good sense of the people, and their desire to secure lasting peace and quiet as speedily and with as little difficulty as possible, to carry him successfully through the new ordeal to which he is about to be subjected.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF NEW YORK SUPERSEDED BY DANIEL S. DICKINSON.

E. DeLind Smith, Esq., District Attorney for the Southern District of New York, has been removed, and Daniel S. Dickinson, Esq., has been appointed in his place.

THE NATIONAL FINANCES. The increasing subscriptions to the seven-thirty loan, under the influence of recent military successes, is highly gratifying. No apprehension is felt now of any difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds for defraying the still enormous outlays of the government. These outlays should and must be speedily and largely reduced, not only by the more reasonable purchase of the necessary material and supplies, but by the more judicious extension of reduction which will take place in the military and naval establishments. While willing to sustain any burden necessary to the suppression of the rebellion, now that that work is likely soon to be effectually accomplished, the most rigid economy should at once be introduced into all branches of the public expenditure, so that the amount of revenue to be raised by loan may be reduced to a moderate amount, and the return to specie payments thus be facilitated and the credit of the government relieved of the present enormous pressure of an excess of expenditure of two and one-third millions per day over the receipts from duties and taxation.

TRADE OF CHARLESTON AND SAVANNAH. At Charleston and Savannah authorized traders will hereafter be permitted, under such restrictions as the post commanders may impose, to receive from inhabitants residing within our lines such merchandise and agricultural products, except cotton and articles not contraband of war, in exchange for necessary supplies of food and clothing. This traffic is, however, to be kept strictly within the limits of military necessity.

THE APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF COLORED TROOPS.

The authority heretofore given to commanding generals of armies or departments, or to other officers, to appoint officers of colored troops, has been revoked by the Secretary of War, except for new recruits to be raised, or for recruits now in process of organization. Hereafter all appointments and promotions in such organizations must be made directly by the President. The regimental commanders of old organizations are requested to nominate meritorious non-commissioned officers and soldiers of white regiments for appointment as second lieutenants in the corps, to fill vacancies caused by promotions. Commanders of armies, departments or corps, are authorized to convene examining boards to determine the qualifications of candidates for promotion in the line or appointment as second lieutenants.

INTERNAL REVENUE DECISION.

The following decision has been made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue:—When any transportation company receive goods at a point in Canada for transportation to a point in the United States, and whether by land or water, and then transport the same thither, no tax can be levied under the law; but as soon as such company deliver the goods to some other transportation company in the United States the exemption will cease, it being considered in such case that the new company transports the goods from that point in the United States, where it receives the same, to any other point in the United States whatever where the said company shall deliver the same.

CELEBRATION OF THE VICTORIES. Extensive preparations are being made for the celebration of our recent victories to-morrow night, under the auspices of the municipal government. The illumination will doubtless be more general than those which have preceded it. The public buildings will again be illuminated, and a magnificent spectacle is anticipated. It is expected that news of Johnston's surrender, and perhaps of the capture of Mobile, may add to the enthusiasm and rejoicing of the occasion.

THE NAVY REGISTER.

Such has been the increase of the navy that the Navy Register for this year will contain fifty pages more than the one previously published. Sixty vessels were added between January 1, 1864, and January 1, 1865, and served in proportion. The number of four iron-clads are given. The entire number of vessels is six hundred and eighty-three. It appears that within the period above mentioned seven naval vessels were destroyed by rebel torpedoes and as many captured by the enemy.

THE SALE OF THE SAVANNAH COTTON.—It is gratifying to know that cotton fabrics are coming down to a reasonable price again. Our wives and daughters can very soon supply themselves with bedding, table cloths, dresses, &c., at something like old fashioned rates. It has been ruinous for housekeepers to get out at elbows for the last three or four years, and to clothe a family as large as that of John Rogers required the purse of Fortunatus himself. Our great staple, which has been run up by the war to nearly two dollars per pound, has now subsided to peace prices. The private sale transactions, as shown in our commercial columns yesterday, are as follows:—

	Upland.	Florida.	Mobile.	N.O.	St.
Ordinary.....	22	22	23	23	23
Good middling.....	23	23	24	24	24
Good middling.....	23	23	24	24	24

The government sales of three thousand bales by the Messrs. Blocker, at auction, on the same day, were as follows:

	Gold.	Currency.
Ordinary to good ordinary.....	14 1/2	22
Good ordinary to low middling.....	14 1/2	22
Barely middling to good middling.....	14 1/2	22
Good middling.....	14 1/2	22

These rates are above their late sale prices, especially as the cotton is all Georgian and above one-half of the bales covered with double bagging and extra ropes. We advise Mr. McCulloch to dispose of his whole stock if he can do so at anything like these rates, before John Bull collapses over the capture of Lee and the end of the rebellion.

MEETING OF TOBACCO MERCHANTS.—An adjourned meeting of tobacco merchants was held at No. 12 Pine street yesterday afternoon, at which a memorial to the Secretary of the Treasury, setting forth the views and wishes of the assembly, was adopted and transmitted to Washington. The great complaint made by the merchants is directed against the sale in the North, for the United States government, of manufactured tobacco confiscated in the rebel States, which, being disposed of free of tax, is believed to be ruinous to the business of local citizens engaged in the manufacture of the article.